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PART I.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT.

Chairmanship of the Board of Education of the Economic Conference.

READ—

Government Order No. P. 5050-110—E. C. 1-23-1, dated 16th March 1924, passing orders regarding the reconstitution of the Economic Conference.

ORDER No. 2419-69—C. B. 48-24-8, DATED 16TH APRIL 1925.

The Extra Member of Council will be the Chairman of the Board of Education of the Economic Conference with effect from the 7th April 1925.

B. RAMASWAMIAIYA,

Offg. Chief Secretary to Government.

REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Tests for Village Officers.

READ—

Correspondence ending with letter No. C. 1487 32-24, dated the 26th November 1924, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, submitting proposals for the opening of Training Schools for Patels at District Head Quarters.

ORDER No. R. 6239 48 -L.-R. 261 32 167, DATED 21ST APRIL 1925.

The question of improving the efficiency of the Village Officers in the State has been engaging the attention of Government for some time past. In a large number of cases, the Shanbhogs and Patels have no adequate knowledge of their duties and responsibilities or of the standing orders on the subject. At present claimants to Shanbhogi Offices are required to pass an examination in the following subjects which may be held on the occurrence of a vacancy or periodically as the Government may deem fit:—

- (1) Reading and writing Kannada well and neat figuring
- (2) Arithmetic up to simple interest.

- (3) Land Revenue Rules with special reference to the rules relating to maintenance and repairs of Field boundary marks.
- (4) Village Manual, and
- (5) Drafting reports regarding occurrences in the village.

The rules require that on the occurrence of a vacancy the hereditary claimant shall be examined in the above subjects by the Deputy Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner deputed by him, unless the claimant has qualified himself before. It is only on his being found qualified in the above subjects that he may be appointed to the office. This procedure does not appear to have been followed in practice, nor have facilities been provided to candidates to qualify themselves by holding periodical examinations. The necessary qualifications expected of Patels at present are:—

- (1) ability to write up references of vital statistics;
- (2) to give receipts to raiyats and to write reports on ordinary occurrences.

In spite of this provision many appointments of men as Patels possessing no qualifications at all have been made.

2. The question of training Patels in Revenue, Police and other matters and of increasing their position and usefulness is being frequently brought up in the Representative Assembly since 1920. Government consider that unless a more literate and competent set of Patels is forthcoming the question of increasing their status, etc., cannot be taken up for consideration. In reply to Subject No. 6 of the Representative Assembly of October 1923 Government stated that the opening of District Training Schools for Patels would be considered, and the Revenue Commissioner was accordingly requested to submit proposals in consultation with the Deputy Commissioners of Districts. He has now submitted a scheme which involves a cost of nearly Rs. 4,000 per annum.

3. After a careful consideration of the proposals, Government are of opinion that besides the question of cost there are many other incidental difficulties in the way of establishing training schools. Government consider that for the present it will be sufficient if a suitable qualifying test is prescribed, the passing of which will be obligatory on all permanent village officers, and Gumastas acting in long vacancies.

4. As already stated above, an examination has been prescribed for Shanbhogs in Rule 25 of the Rules under the Village Officers' Regulation, but no arrangement has been made for holding the Examination. The test is, as compared with that prescribed in Madras, more comprehensive and Government consider that it may be continued with the addition of the Village Panchayet Regulation, as one of the subjects. With regard to Patels however, the present rules in the State do not compare favourably with those in Madras. Although a certain amount of literacy is expected of them, no regular test has been so far prescribed. In Madras no person is eligible for appointment to the office of Village Head-man unless he has passed an Examination in—

- (a) the powers and duties of Village Officers; and
- (b) village sanitation; or such oral examination as the Divisional Officer shall direct in order to satisfy himself that the candidate possesses sufficient literary education to perform the duties of a Village Head-man.

Government direct that a similar test for Patels called "Patel's Test" be instituted the subjects being—

- (1) The Village Manual.
- (2) Regulation and rules relating to village sanitation and
- (3) Village Police Rules.

5. The Patel's test and the Shanbhog test as above indicated will be held twice a year under the control of the Local Service Examinations Board along with the other Local Service Examinations, but no fee will be levied for admission to these Examinations for the present. All permanent Shanbhogs and Patels who are 30 years and under should pass the test in two years and all Gumastas acting in long term vacancies lasting for one year or more should pass the Examination within one year. In future no gumastas or permanent officers should be appointed unless they possess the required qualification. Private candidates may be freely allowed to appear for the Examination so as to secure recruits for Gumastaships. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to publish the terms of this order to all Village Officers and to take steps to give effect to the orders at an early date.

R. NAGAPPA,
Secretary to Government,
(in charge) Revenue Department.